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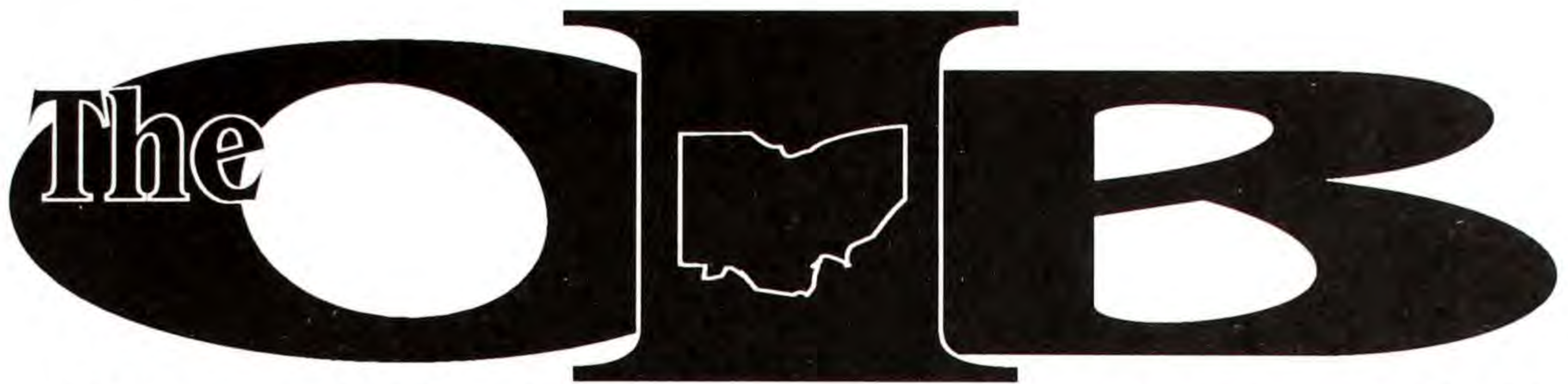
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The Ohio Independent Baptist

The Newsletter of the Ohio Association of Regular Baptist Churches

Vol.67 No.5

July/August 1994

By the time you receive this paper, we will be...

Out Of Debt!

by State Representative Larry Fetzer

Just one year after the collapse of the Regular Baptist Fellowship Health Care Plan for our OARBC pastors and church staff, we can say that it is just about over. On November 1, 1992, our state association was left with an indebtedness of approximately \$650,000 in hospital, doctor and other health-related bills. For our association of some 200 churches, many of them small and short of funds anyway, this seemed like an impossible burden. Where were we ever to obtain this much money? One fund raising expert told us we could never raise that kind of money from our small constituency to pay off past bills. We were told to expect to have to mortgage Camp Patmos, and maybe even the homes of the Council of Twelve members.

At our Council meeting, as we faced the seriousness of the problem before us, we read in the Word of God from 2 Chronicles 20:12 the prayer of Jehoshaphat as he was under attack by a great army, "O our God...we have no might against this great [debt] that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon Thee" (paraphrased).

That prayer well expressed the sentiment of each one of us. Yet each member of the Council agreed that it was our obligation to pay all those claims to the very best of our ability. We spent much time in prayer asking God's help.

How God answered our prayers in ways we couldn't believe. Many doctors and hospitals volunteered a discount. Some even forgave the debt altogether. Many churches offered to cover their pastor's claims. Our two Brotherly Love Offerings brought in over \$146,000. God protected us from lawsuits. We found that when we accepted the responsibility in a godly way and sought to pay our bills, even

those of the world respected our efforts. We were able to protect our testimony. Once again the Scripture proves itself true, "With men this is impossible; but with God...."

Celebration Conference Set For Westerville

The OARBC Annual Conference will be held this year October 24-26 at Grace Baptist Church, Westerville. It will be a great celebration of "The Miracle of Ohio." This is the same church in which we originally informed our constituency of the failure of the RBF plan. We return here to celebrate the VICTORY God has given us. Plan now to attend this conference. Its location in the center of the state makes it easily accessible to all.

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- It's true—Scioto buys a building for \$5. page 7



State Youth Workers Conference

October 28, 29
Radisson Harbour Inn, Sandusky, Ohio
Speaker: John Colyer, Calvary Baptist Seminary, Lansdale, Pennsylvania
Topic: Contemporary Youth Problems
For more information contact Pastor Jeff Nilius at 216-458-5128.

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Using Media Partnerships To Plant And Strengthen Local Churches

by Mark Kordic

Have you considered the vast potential Ohio's 46 radio stations have in furthering the ministry of your local church? Christian broadcasting is a tool God has raised up in this generation to reach all classes of people with the Gospel.

Just as the ministry of Jesus crossed all social and cultural lines, Christian radio brings life-changing teaching to people you will never personally contact. Many of those who are being reached by Christian radio would never fit into the average "middle-class" church in Ohio. Many regular listeners are going through difficult life situations, such as a divorce or job loss, and find strength and direction from much of the programming.

There are several ways to gain exposure for your church on the Christian radio station in your area. Program directors or community affairs personnel are always looking for potential interview guests who can articulate ways your church is meeting needs in the community. For example, your church may be conducting a Christian sports camp or perhaps you are providing English classes for immigrants in your community. Send a letter to the station about your outreach and follow up with a phone call. You will be surprised at the eagerness of station personnel to invite you for an interview.

Another way to gain exposure for your church is through promotional partnerships. For example, the CDR Radio Network at Cedarville College was approached a few months ago about co-sponsoring a Christian Financial Concepts seminar at Grand Heights Baptist Church in Fairborn. CDR ran promotional announcements about the event, and the church benefitted from the exposure.

New church plants can also utilize the resources of Christian radio to gain credibility in their new community. Grace Community Church in Washington Court House sent a quarterly newspaper to all residents in Fayette County advertising a "co-partnership" with CDR Radio. Many residents had already come to trust CDR and it was easier to transfer their interest to the new church. Other new churches

have distributed program schedules to gain the trust of the community.

Most Christian radio stations feature a community calendar. You can let your community know about concerts, revival services, vacation Bible schools or special speakers through public service announcements. For example, CDR Radio recently started the "Neighborhood News" program which airs five times a day. Churches are encouraged to send in the facts concerning their special events, and they are aired free of charge.

If you are not aware of a Christian radio station in your area, call us at CDR Radio, 1-800-333-0601. We will help you identify a station that you can link up with as a partner in ministry.

Cedarville College News

The National League for Nursing (NLN) has renewed accreditation to the Cedarville College Department of Nursing for the next eight years. Cedarville earned NLN's highest approval rating: "All criteria fully met. No recommendations." According to Dr. Irene Alyn, chair of the department, it is on rare occasions that an institution receives this rating.

Scott Hartley has received a WISE (Washington Internship for Students of Engineering) internship, one of the highest honors available to undergraduate engineers. This is the second straight year for a Cedarville College student to be named a WISE intern. Hartley is a junior mechanical engineering/math double major at Cedarville. The 1994 group of interns also includes students from Yale, West Point, Kansas State, Illinois, and eight other top engineering schools.



Ladies, don't forget to save your quarters for the OWMU HYMNALS FOR CHAD project.

Calvary Baptist, Chillicothe, has begun taping their services for replay over a local TV station. They would like to enhance the quality with professional or semi-professional equipment (editing capability, etc.). If you know where they can purchase used equipment, please call Bill Lee at 513-981-2884 evenings.



Books In Review

RECLAIMING AUTHENTIC FUNDAMENTALISM

by Douglas R. McLachlan

It is encouraging to read a well-written book on Fundamentalism. Douglas McLachlan, a biblical fundamentalist, writes with a genuine love for authentic fundamentalism, evident in the spirit with which he identifies the weaknesses that have plagued the movement in the last several decades. His comments are accurate and ironic. He addresses the various spirits of dominance, combativeness, shallow exegesis, and petty legalism that have done a great disservice to our Lord and to His church. The author is to be commended for the way he corrects these damaging attitudes with Scripture. The book leaves no stone unturned, either in its diagnosis of the sins that have affected the movement or in its prescription of what must take place for God to bring revival.

The author offers a careful plan for reclaiming the truth, bringing the Word

of God to bear on the critical areas that are the hallmarks of every work of God. Godly leadership is reaffirmed as essential. Careful and intelligent attention to the whole counsel of God is offered as the alternative to "getting a text, and getting a fit." Fundamentalists are called back to evangelism and challenged to pay attention to where people really are today.

The chapter titled, "Implementing Authentic Separation" is excellent. The book does not get caught up in simple formulas, but is careful to lay out solid biblical reasons upon which to base both personal and ecclesiastical separation.

Reading the book is easy. Humble implementation will demand the work of our great God.

--Reviewed by Pastor Tim Kenoyer
Chairman, Council of Twelve

Raptured By Youth Sponsors

by Darrell Lenox

Have you ever had to get up really early? How about 1:30 a.m.? That's what happened with the youth group at Immanuel Baptist Church, Columbus, during their "rapture night" on May 20. The youth sponsors arranged with the parents to pick up their teens throughout the night and "rapture" them to Heaven, in this case, the church. The sponsors left the church at 12:30 a.m. armed with white robes and trumpet music. They then went to each home, and woke the teens. After giving each young person a few minutes to get presentable for "Heaven," both groups came back to the church for some activities. They entered the church basement to find it decorated like Heaven. They went through the judgement seat, crowns, and marriage supper to give an idea of what it will be like in Heaven. As you may imagine, the youth were tired and some were grumpy but they had a great time learning about Heaven, playing

a game to review the lessons of the year, and watching the movie, "A Thief in the Night." The events of the evening helped the young people get a new realization of how the rapture could happen at any time and will help make them think every night before they go to sleep.

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HATS OFF to Larry Fetzer for serving five years as state representative and two years as state insurance adjustor!

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Abbe Road Baptist in Elyria has a Kodak copier/duplicator to give away. Interested? Call the church at 216-365-7394.

Across the State



Pastor Mark Ashley



Northfield

An installation service was held at **Northfield Baptist** on April 17 for Rev. Mark J. Ashley. Pastor Ashley had been serving as the assistant pastor for three years.

When Pastor Lynn Rogers retired after 40 years at Northfield, the church called Pastor Ashley to become their senior pastor. He assumed his duties as senior pastor on February 1, 1994.

The installation service featured special music and a message by Pastor Bradley Quick, of First Baptist, Elyria. The Charge to the Pastor was given by Mark's father, Rev. Willard Ashley. The deacon board had a special prayer of installation for their new pastor, and presented him with a Bible from the board and several gifts from the congregation. The afternoon was concluded with a cake reception.

Ashley is a graduate of Baptist Bible College of Pennsylvania. He is presently continuing graduate work, and anticipates completion of his Masters degree in May, 1995. He and his wife, Debbie, are parents of two sons, Jonathan and Joel.



Englewood

Union Baptist hosted its annual missionary conference May 15-17. The conference theme was, "Focus On Missionaries." At each service a different missionary presented his field,

and another brought the missionary challenge. Participating missionaries were Dr. Carson Freemont, Dr. Charles Pausley, Sr., Charles Alexander, and Terry Morgan. A "Know Your Missionary" fellowship dinner was held on Sunday.

Charles Arnett is pastor at Union Baptist.



Pastor John Gowdy



Portsmouth

Temple Baptist recently held a reception to honor Pastor John Gowdy and his family in appreciation for his completing ten years as Temple's pastor. Temple Baptist has

been a part of John Gowdy's life since the age of 13, when he was saved during a youth activity hosted by the church. He graduated from Tennessee Temple in Chattanooga, Tennessee, where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1979. He was ordained at Temple Baptist in 1980, and was called to be Temple's minister of youth and visitation. In 1983 he became pastor of the church.

For the program, members of the congregation brought together people instrumental in Pastor Gowdy's spiritual life, including Rev. Wilbur Parrish of First Baptist in Strongsville, who was the youth leader when John was a teen and who led John to the Lord. Special music included two of Pastor Gowdy's favorites. Mrs. Marian Dautel read an original poem dedicated to the Gowdy family entitled, "The God of Little Boys," and presented copies to Pastor Gowdy and his mother, Mrs. Mary Gowdy, as mementos of the occasion.

Guests were treated to refreshments and viewed several "John Gowdy—This Is Your Life" displays throughout the building. Several tables were decorated using as their themes the ministries of the church.

Pastor Gowdy grew up before the eyes of many of those in attendance and has served the congregation faithfully through the years.



Mount Vernon

Pastor Merlyn Jones reports that the Friend Day held April 24 at **Faith Baptist** was a huge success. Seventy-seven first-time visitors attended, with a total attendance of 424. The day's

events included a balloon launch from the front lawn. Of the 150 balloons launched, seven were found, with two of the attached tracts signed, meaning that the finders had prayed to ask Christ into his/her heart. One balloon was found 100 miles from the church.



Marysville

"God is pouring out His blessings upon the **Emmanuel Baptist Church**," writes BMM missionary pastor Jim Ruck. "In three months time, 33 visitors have attended our services.

Twenty four of these have been back at least three times! One couple has joined the church.

We are in the planning stages of our first VBS, which is scheduled for July. Many of our new attenders have volunteered to help.

We are having our church recognition council in July. After the council, we plan to apply for fellowship in the GARBC and OARBC. Our core group of 15 has increased to approximately 40. We reached a high of 86 on May 15. We praise Him for many new young couples!"



Coshocton

Former pastors and members gathered with the present congregation as the new **Calvary Baptist**

facility was dedicated on June 5. A close bond has developed with the funda-

mental missionary Baptist church which purchased Calvary's old building; each participated in the other's dedication service.

Robert Riedy is pastor at Calvary Baptist.

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OIB news deadline
September issue
August 2



Pastor Bradley Quick receiving
commendation from his congregation.

Elyria

On April 10, the congregation of **First Baptist** surprised Pastor Bradley Quick and his wife, Debbie, with a 10th anniversary of ministry celebration. At the Sunday morning early worship service, he received a gag (styrofoam) plaque followed by the "real" one. The expected repetition in the second service provided opportunity for the real surprise--the presentation of a trip to Israel. At lunch that afternoon, Quick confided relief that the surprises were over.

Fully expecting to preach that evening, Pastor Quick was greeted with a standing ovation. As he sang with a First Baptist quartet, a quartet from his former church, First Baptist, Blanchester, came to the platform. A large group of friends from that church were seated in the sanctuary.

Parents and family from across the country were introduced, as well as a gospel team from college years. There were testimonials from people who had joined First Baptist during each year of his ministry, letters from significant friends in life and ministry, and special presentations of more plaques, a book of remembrances, and other mementos.

Belle Center

New Richland Baptist has asked William (Bill) Russell to serve as interim pastor. Russell has pastored OARBC churches in Blanchester, Medina and Canton, and served as director of Skyview Ranch.

Elyria

Abbe Road has just completed its spring Sunday school campaign built around a baseball theme and coinciding with the opening of the new baseball park in Cleveland.

The campaign lasted the four weeks of April, and saw an increase in average attendance from 220 to 264. Nearly every class met its goal, with the Toddler Class winning the award for the highest percentage of increase, at 140% of their enrollment. The church's new pastor, Richard Seefried, and superintendent John Koenig, organized the contest and handed out awards May 1. The three who brought the most visitors were Wally Schwandt, Barb Hales and Daniel Seefried. Each was awarded gift certificates to a Christian book store, a trophy and two tickets to a future Cleveland Indians game.

Toledo

On May 11 a commissioning service was held at **Emmanuel Baptist** for Robert and Peggy Latham, missionaries with Continental Baptist Mission in church planting, and Joel and Norma

Fritch, Baptist Mid-Missions short-term missionaries to Ecuador with the Arriba program through Baptist Bible College. The four are members of Emmanuel Baptist.

The commissioning service included the baptism of Seth and Stephannie Fritch, who will accompany their parents and older brother, Cory, to Ecuador. The commissioning message was brought by Pastor Edward Fuller. Rev. Charles Nichols, Field Administrator for Baptist Mid-Missions, presented a challenge to the congregation and also to the candidates. The service was climaxed by a prayer of dedication by Pastor Fuller in which the commissioned missionaries were encircled by the deacons. A reception was held following the service for the two couples and the church family.

Columbus

Bethesda Baptist celebrated their 10th anniversary on June 5. Participating in the anniversary celebration were Pastor Paul Vaughan, founding pastor George Myers and Larry Fetzer. The day included a fellowship dinner followed by the Lord's Table, conducted by Pastor Myers.

Gallipolis

First Baptist dedicated their new property to the Lord on May 8. The present church, located in a downtown area, is at capacity and without room for growth. The new property will accommodate both the church and school. Archie Conn is pastor at First Baptist.

Across the State, continued pg. 8

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Ohio Women

Dear Ladies,



Have you ever been asked to do something that you were absolutely certain you should accept—but you had no idea why or how you could make a positive contribution?

Last fall I was asked to represent the Ohio Women's Missionary Union at the Church Planter's Prayer Retreat to be held in January. It was a personal invitation from missionary Earl Shaffer, whom my church supports, and who serves as a special consultant to the OARBC. His enthusiasm was contagious and I looked forward to attending.

The primary purpose of the retreat was to pray. A secondary purpose was to begin a network for coordinating the vast resources available here in Ohio to further church planting. During the course of the retreat, it became apparent what you and I could contribute. The MEN were beginning to form a network (including us)—the WOMEN of the state already have a strong one in place!

The need is to survey the state of Ohio. To do this, the OARBC Church Planting Task Team needs a mailing list of independent, fundamental, evangelical, baptistic churches. These churches and our own OARBC will be used as a

data base for church planting information and resources. How do we find these independent, fundamental churches that are scattered all over the state?

Letters have been sent to each of the WMU groups on our mailing list asking that some lady(ies) in your church let their "fingers do the walking" through the local phone book to find these churches. If you are unsure of a church's doctrinal stand, by all means, ask your pastor. (DO NOT ask him to fill out the form. He has enough to keep him busy!)

Ladies, as you read this article, please check with your WMU president to see that your church is doing its part of the large task. You may need to volunteer to help. It should not take more than an hour of your time. But multiply that by 200 and you see the size of the complete job! If your church did not receive a letter (or it got misplaced) call me or jot me a note. It is vitally important that all

of our women's groups throughout the state respond.

Then, pray for Ohio and the Task Team members. This is a "home missions" project. We cannot all go to Africa or Asia, South America or Europe. Likewise, the missionaries we send to those places cannot share the gospel with the unsaved in Ohio. We are charged with that responsibility. As we join hands to raise money for our new state project, Chadian hymnals, let us also join hands to provide a data base for the Church Planting Task Team here in Ohio. Just as many little quarters add up, so also, little contributions of time will add up to provide a God-honoring gift.

Ladies, you have a reputation for faithfulness and sacrifice. I encourage you to be a part of reaching the lost of Ohio for Jesus Christ.

--Diane Varner

County _____ Name of person completing form _____
 Name of church _____ Phone _____
 Street address _____ City _____ ZIP _____
 Mailing address _____ City _____ ZIP _____
 Pastor's name _____ Pastor's home phone _____
 What denominational group (be as specific as possible.) _____

Return no later than August 1 to
 Pastor Joel Harriman, OARBC Church Planting Task Team, PO Box 54, Homeworth, OH 44634.

Three Fall Retreats Scheduled

Scioto Hills

September 8-10

Speaker: Cheryl Fawcett, Cedarville College; Missionary speaker: Brenda Dittmar, Evangelical Baptist Missions

Cost:
 \$20 pre-registration, \$20 balance due if pre-registered by August 15;
 \$25 balance due if pre-registered after August 15. (Lodges are full !!)

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 Springfield, OH 45503 (513-390-2701)
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Skyview Ranch

September 15-17

Theme:
 "Precious Moments in God's Word"
 Bible teacher:
 Mrs. Peggy Walker. Wife and mother of three, her practical Bible teaching is a challenge to women of all ages.
 Host Church:
 Grace Baptist, Troy
 Registration:
 Information coming to your church.
 Cost:
 \$38

Atwood Lake Resort, Dellroy

November 10-11

Theme:
 "God Leads His Dear Children Along"
 Speaker:
 Mrs. Sue Miller
 Host Church:
 Immanuel Baptist, Columbus
 Cost
 2 per room--\$52
 3 per room--\$46
 4 per room--\$41
 Registrar (register by Sept. 25):
 Waneta Bradley
 2890 Old US Rt 40 NW
 London, OH 43140

Keeping Up With Our Camps

Skyview Ranch

*I would rather be the gatekeeper,
On this verse Pop made his stand.
He knew his place at Skyview, was
exactly as God planned.
Every dream Pop ever dreamed, came
true here in this place.
You could see it in his twinkling eyes,
and the smile upon his face.
In the service of the Lord, how endlessly
he worked.
No job was beneath him, no task he ever
shirked.
When he walked these many acres, his
heart would fill with joy.
For here the Lord would touch the lives
of many girls and boys.
Skyview was Pop's mission field for
twenty-four years long.
Though his body grew so weary, his faith
forever strong.
God's ever faithful servant, pure of heart
steadfast and true.
Pop set a great example for me, and all
of you.
So I wonder, as we gather here in Pop's
loving memory,
When heaven's gates swing open wide
for us,
Will it be Pop that turns the key?*

It wasn't done in a day, but with volunteers working for six consecutive weekends, a new horse barn was erected at Skyview Ranch. The barn will be called "Pop" Wolff Stable, in memory of Henry Wolff's 24-plus years of service. Altogether, over 80 volunteers worked more than 125 volunteer days to get the stable ready.

A dedication service was held May 28 with 175 in attendance. The stable was dedicated to the testimony of Pop Wolff and the example he was to staff, ranchers and his family, of service in the church and ministry at the Ranch. To conclude the service, a poem written by one of his daughters was read and "Mom" Wolff rode the first horse into the stable. A group of family campers presented the camp with a portrait of "Mom and Pop" Wolff.

Scioto Hills

Fall Retreat Schedule

Sept 8-10	Ladies Retreat Cheryl Fawcett
Sept 30-Oct 1	Couples Retreat #1 David Dernlan
Oct 4-6	Sr. Saints Fall Retreat Richard Durham
Oct 7-8	Couples Retreat #2 David Dernlan
Dec 3	Christmas Dinner Concert

PROGRESS REPORT: Good News—The Lord has provided a 34' x 60' building from the Wayne National Forest for FIVE dollars. Praise the Lord with us! God sent a group of workers from Calvary Baptist, Lancaster, to help us tear off the roof. We need another work crew to help us tear up the floor to save the floor joist. Also, God has provided another log cabin that we have dismantled and moved to camp. This cabin was originally built in the mid-1800s.

God has provided a GREAT STAFF for 1994 camp season. Thank you for praying for a great summer.

New staff housing has been put on hold for a couple months. Keep watching the OIB for how you can help.

"To God Be The Glory" for His Goodness!!! Psalm 117:1-2.

Camp Patmos

The Patmos summer program has been blessed of the Lord with Scott Kaiser, summer director. His parents, Bob and Sally, met as campers at Patmos, and Scott met his wife, Jami, at Patmos. Scott first joined the Patmos staff as lifeguard, then worked in maintenance. He has fried chicken and worked in the dishroom. In fact, he has done every job there is to do at Patmos. His vocational Christian service is serving as headmaster of the Mogadore Christian School. Pastor Rob Seymour is delighted at the leadership Scott has given to the school.

The Pastors and Wives Retreat is scheduled for August 22-23, with Dr. Milo Thompson speaking. Pastor Willis Hull will speak at the Senior Citizens Retreat August 23-25, and Pastor Dan Simmons will be the speaker at the Singles Retreat August 26-27. Contact Pastor Lynn Rogers at 7854 North Boyden Rd, Sagamore Hills, OH 44067 (216-467-4341).



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Across the State, continued



Chardon

Sunday, May 1, marked a day of festive celebration for the people of **Chardon Baptist** as they retired the church debt four years ahead of schedule, saving over \$50,000. The festivities

included a special worship service with guest speaker Ross DeFelice, the Continental Baptist Missions missionary church planter who first pastored the church in 1975 and brought it to self-support status in 1987. Also present were Continental Baptist Missions church builders Fred and Mary Kreiser, who spent seven months building the church building. Following the worship service the church family enjoyed a fellowship luncheon.

At the mortgage-burning ceremony, Pastor Jeff Mackey focused on the retiring of the debt as a step toward a future of bringing glory to God. The church will continue to set aside money each month as they look forward to adding much-needed educational space in the near future.



Grafton

Pastor Eldon Stevens of **Midview Baptist** writes, "We had a special emphasis Friend Day on April 17. Praise God for 188 in attendance on that day. Also, our men enjoyed

a men's retreat at the Shalom Lake Baptist Camp, Huntsburg, with Pastor Timothy Kenoyer as special speaker. The big highlight of the month was our opportunity to have Dr. Joseph Stowell, Sr., and his wife, Corabell, with us for a four-day Bible conference. Our people were deeply enriched by the preaching of Dr. Stowell."



Smithville

On May 1, **Pleasant Hill Baptist** held a dedication service for their new facilities. The work began in 1975 and has now seen two building programs. The weekend began with a concert

on Saturday evening. On Sunday, Youth Pastor Brian Hanson ministered during the morning worship. Following a carry-in dinner the congregation gathered together for a special service to dedicate the new sanctuary and educational facilities to God.

Stephen Olsen is senior pastor at Pleasant Hill.



Sunbury

Grace Baptist has asked Frank Millard, of Scranton, Pennsylvania, to serve as interim pastor. Millard is a graduate of Moody Bible Institute and has studied at Baptist Bible Seminary.

Grace Baptist, Westerville, has entered into partnership with Grace Baptist, Sunbury, to provide children's and youth workers and assistance in music and give other aid as needed.



Twinsburg

First Baptist celebrated their 35th anniversary during the month of May. Special speakers included the founding pastor, Paul Schenck;

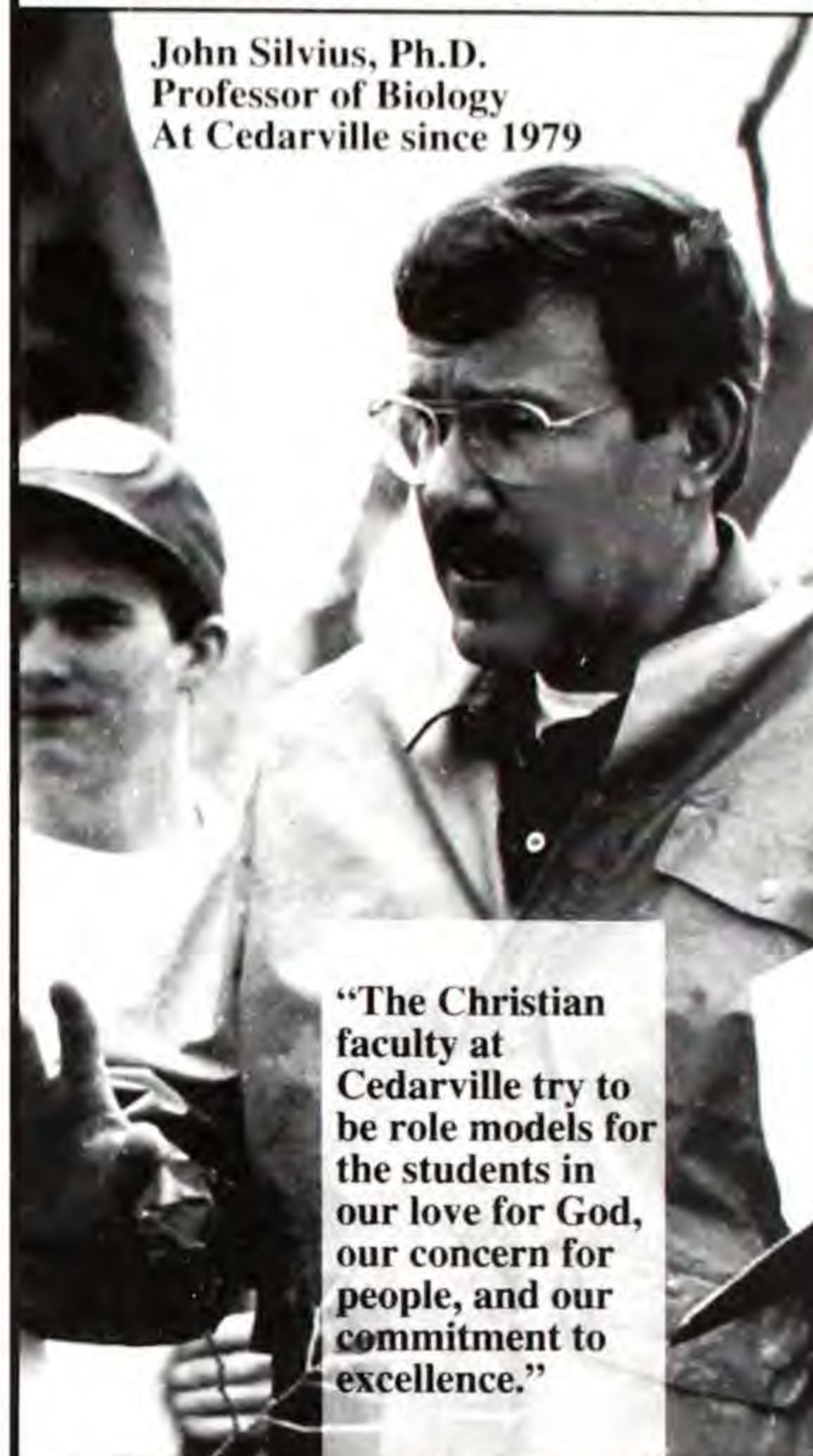
former pastor David Robertson; Norm Nicklas, ABWE administrator for North America; and State Representative Larry Fetzer. The church recently completed a refurbishing of their building.

DeElda Payton is pastor at First Baptist.

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